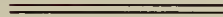


The
Rural District Council of Sturminster



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STURMINSTER

ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December 31st, 1938

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area 45,000 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1938—8,073.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books—2,619.

Rateable value—£33,897.

Sum represented by a penny rate 1937-8—£147.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Mainly dairy farming.

There is not much unemployment in the district.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	70	42	28	{ Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.2.
	Illegitimate	4	0	4	
Stillbirths		4	2	2	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 51.3.
Deaths	... ..	107	54	53	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.3.
Deaths from Puerperal causes					{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 12.8.
	No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis	...		0	
	No. 30, Other Puerperal causes			1	
				Total	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births—27.0.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—28.6.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 19.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0.

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) Medical Officer of Health :—BERNARD S. HOLLICK, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

(January to 30th June, 1938).

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., Ch.B.,
D.P.H. (from 1st July, 1938).

Sanitary Inspector :—J. H. DEAN, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :—E. E. G. BARTLETT,
A.M.I.S.E.

Consulting Engineer (Water Schemes) :—A. J. ALLEN, F.S.I.,
M.Inst.B.E.

(ii) (a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

During December, 1938, the County Laboratory at Dorchester was opened, and facilities afforded for the examination of Pathological specimens, etc.

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

The Ambulance which is kept at the Fire Station is owned by the Council and is available for road casualties.

(c) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

No change during 1938.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**

No change during 1938.

(e) **HOSPITALS.**

On the 23rd September, the Dorset County Council convened a general Meeting of the following Councils :—

Shaftesbury Borough.

Sherborne Urban District.

Shaftesbury Rural District.

Sherborne Rural District.

Sturminster Rural District.

which constitutes Area No. 2 (North Dorset) and this Conference requested the Minister of Health to set up a Joint Hospital Board for this area.

(f) **MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ACCOMMODATION.**

Representations were received from Doctors, through the Coroner, regarding inadequate accommodation, and the Council are giving the matter consideration.

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

The main public water supplies are from the following sources :—

- (a) Belchalwell.
- (b) Cookwell.
- (c) Duntish.
- (d) The Hollow, Okeford Fitzpaine.
- (e) Ibberton.
- (f) Shillingstone.

All Parishes have piped supplies, but in five cases the supply is under private ownership, as detailed below :—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Owner.</i>
Fifehead Magdalen	... P. G. M. Talbot, Esq.
Hinton St. Mary (part only*)	... Capt. G. H. L. F. Pitt-Rivers.
Stoke Wake	... F. O. Kent, Esq.
Woolland	... M. Scott Williams, Esq.
Wootton Glanvilles (1)	... Duntish Estate.
(2)	... Digby Estate.
(3)	...

* A portion of this Parish is supplied from the Public Supply.

The Scheme approved by the Ministry for a supply to Wootton Glanvilles, although urgently required, is held up pending the decision of the County Council on the application made to them in May for financial assistance.

Of the above-named public supplies, the one from Duntish has remained satisfactory in quality throughout the year, but the remainder have been subject to pollution. The quantity of water from all sources has been satisfactory.

During the year the Hollow Supply at Okeford Fitzpaine was closed owing to pollution, and the Council have replaced this supply with water from the Cookwell source.

Bacteriological examination is carried out monthly for routine purposes, the total number of examinations during 1938 being 64.

A considerable amount of inspection and improvement to the gathering grounds, and the protection of the same has been carried out, and the result of this was beginning to manifest itself towards the close of the year when the bacteriological analyses of all supplies became satisfactory.

At the Cookwell supply pollution was traced to a leaking sewer which passes over the spring head. Although this has been repaired, there must always be considerable anxiety owing to the presence of a sewer immediately over the source of a main water supply.

No analyses are available of the private supplies, but it is hoped that regular analyses may be started in the near future.

Improvements and extensions of water mains have been carried out in the following Parishes :—

Fifehead Neville.
Hazelbury Bryan.
Marnhull.
Okeford Fitzpaine.
Shillingstone.
Stalbridge.
Sturminster Newton.

(ii) **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

Consulting Engineers have been engaged and have reported concerning a preliminary scheme for sewage disposal in the Parishes of Stalbridge, Marnhull, Sturminster Newton, Okeford Fitzpaine, Child Okeford, Shillingstone and Stourton Caundle.

The Council has decided to instruct the Consulting Engineer to prepare Schemes of Sewerage and Sewage disposal in respect of the Parishes of Stalbridge and Marnhull, for submission to the Ministry of Health.

Small improvements have been carried out in respect of sewage disposal in a part of the Parish of Hinton St. Mary.

(iii) **FACTORY EFFLUENTS.**

The plant installed at the Okeford Fitzpaine Factory following the Ministry Inquiry into an application by the Council to prosecute, has been completed and is working satisfactorily.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of Cookwell Brook and the River Stour by a Milk Factory at Okeford Fitzpaine is now prevented by a satisfactory Sewage disposal scheme installed and operated by the Factory.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change during the year.

(ii) **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

(a) **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

The comprehensive scheme of refuse disposal initiated by the Council in 1937 continues to be satisfactory. Details of costs are set out below :—

<i>Costing.</i>					£	s.	d.
Wages	..	...	...	...	224	0	0
Petrol, Oils, etc.	...	...	...	...	56	0	0
General Maintenance	...	...	...	...	21	0	0
Rent of Dumps	...	...	...	...	17	0	0
Garage rent	...	...	...	...	13	0	0
Insurance	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Tax	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	7	0	0
					<hr/> £374 0 0		

Loan repayments :—

Principal	...	...	£48	0	0
Interest	...	...	£11	0	0
				59	0 0

Gross Cost ... £433 0 0

Sundry Income.

	£	s.	d.
Salvage	30	0	0
Hire to other Departments	3	0	0
Charge for special services	1	0	0
Trade Refuse Collections	1	0	0
	£35	0	0

Nett Cost of Refuse Collection during year 1938 ... £398 0 0

Analysis of Costs.

Average Cost per collection	£1	8	10
Average Cost per house per year	...	3	1.2.
Total number of houses collected in year	...	35,077	
Total Mileage	...	5,790	
Total No. of loads	...	397	
Average distance per load	...	14½	miles.

(b) **CESSPOOL CLEANSING.**

The Council does not undertake these duties.

(iii) **SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.**

Total number of Inspections (all headings)	...	...	1256
Total number of informal notices served	...	...	68
Total number of informal notices complied with	...	...	60
Total number of Statutory notices served	...	...	10
Total number of Statutory notices complied with	...	...	10

(iv) **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

During the year 64 inspections were carried out of factories, workshops and workplaces.

	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
Factories with mechanical power	20	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	28	1	Nil
Workplaces, other than out-workers premises	16	Nil	Nil
Total	64	1	Nil

<i>Defects.</i>	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inpsr.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defect	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	—

(v) **SHOPS.**

Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	2
Number complied with	...	...	...	2

(vi) **CAMPING SITES.**

There are no licensed Camping Sites.

(vii) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

No action was necessary during the year.

(viii) **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**

The Parish Council of Sturminster Newton have a Bathing Station at the Island on the River Stour, Sturminster Newton, which is operated in connection with the Recreation Ground, a small charge being made for admission.

There is an outfall of the effluent drain of a sewage tank draining a small portion of the town which discharges into the river about 200 or 300 yards above the Bathing Island.

Generally the polluted state of the river contra-indicates bathing.

(ix) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

No action was necessary during the year.

4. SCHOOLS.

Improvements to drainage were carried out during the year in respect of Schools at Stalbridge and Pulham.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	158
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	440

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	110
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	206
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	48
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	42
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.			
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	18
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—			
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	...	...	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—			
(a) By owners	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	16
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—			
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	1

- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 9
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of persons on Register at the end of 1936	...	...	362
Number of Dairy Farms and other Dairy Premises on Register at the end of 1938	...	...	362
Number of Dairy Farms inspected during 1938	...	...	68
Number of Inspections	...	...	128
Number of Notices served	...	...	22
Number of Notices complied with	...	...	22
Number of Milkshops inspected during 1938	...	...	5
Number of Inspections	...	...	48
Number of Notices served	...	...	4
Number complied with	...	...	4

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no ante-mortem inspections. 1802 post-mortem inspections were made during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle exclud: ing cows</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known)		Unknown			
Number inspected ...	156	182	886	368	210
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil.	1	1	Nil.	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	48	12	36	2
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	... 11.5%	16.9%	1.4%	9.7%	1.4%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil.	2	Nil.	Nil.	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	56	Nil.	Nil.	52
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	... 3.8%	31.8%	Nil.	Nil.	32.4%

(c) *Adulterations.*

The following is a list of samples taken in the District during the year ended 31st December, 1938 :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>	<i>No. reported against.</i>
Butter	2	—
Bismuth Liquid	1	—
Beans (Baked)	1	—
Coffee Essence	1	—
Glycerine	2	—
Iodine, Tincture of	3	1
Milk	13	4
Vinegar (Malt)	1	—

Action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon :—

Milk.	Deficient in fat to the extent of 2%	Seller cautioned.
Milk.	Contained 8.5% of Extraneous Water	Seller prosecuted and fined £1 with £2 2s. costs.
*Milk.	Deficient in fat to the extent of 13%	
†Milk.	Deficient in fat to the extent of 5%	
Iodine, Tincture of (informal)	... Deficient in Iodine 4.5% w/v	Former sample genuine.

*Original sample.

†Corresponding “ Appeal to Cow ” sample.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

No action was necessary.

(e) *Nutrition.*

No action was necessary.

(f) *Shellfish (Molluscan).*

There are no layings or shell-fish beds in the District.

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	1
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25-	...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards...		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	...	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Upon receipt of a notification of Tuberculosis, a house inspection is carried out, and steps taken to remedy any defects where conditions are found to be unsatisfactory.

CARRICK G. PAYTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

